

ON A DUCK NEW TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

About nine years since (February 2, 1872), Mr. George A. Boardman, of Calais, Maine, sent to the Smithsonian Institution a mounted specimen of a duck obtained in Fulton Market, New York City, and supposed to have been shot on Long Island Sound, which he was unable to determine satisfactorily, but which he supposed to be a hybrid between the Red-head (*Aethya americana*) and some other species. The specimen was in immature plumage, with the feathers of the first livery much worn, while those of the new moult, which were generally interspersed, indicated a very different garb when the moult should have been completed. At the time the specimen was received at the Smithsonian, I (also supposing it to be a hybrid) made comparisons with nearly, if not quite, all the American species of ducks, but was unable to get the slightest clue to its parentage. It was then put back in the case and not again thought of until a few days ago, when in removing the specimens with a view to their rearrangement I happened to take the one in question in one hand and an adult female of the European Rufous-crested Duck (*Fuligula rufina*) in the other; and having the two thus in a very favorable position for comparison, I at once perceived a striking similarity in general appearance and in the form of the bill, which induced me to extend the examination to an adult male, the result being that no question remained of the bird in question being an immature male of *F. rufina*, a species hitherto not detected in North America. I have written to Mr. Boardman requesting full particulars as to circumstances and date of capture, but have been unable to elicit any further particulars than those given above.

As the species has never been described in any work on North American birds, I give below a description of the three stages represented in the collection of the United States National Museum, as well as of the downy young, the latter quoted from Dresser's "Birds of Europe"; also, the principal synonyms and references, compiled from the leading European authorities.

Genus FULIGULA, Stephens.*

"*Branta*," BOIE, Isis, 1822, 564 (type *Anas rufina*, Pall.); not of SCOPOLI, 1769.

Fuligula, STEPHENS, Gen. Zool. xii. 1824, 187 (type *Anas rufina*, Pall.).

Netta, KAUP, Nat. Syst. 1829, 102 (same type).

Callichen, BREHM, Vög. Deutschl. 1831, 921 (same type).

Mergoides, EYTON, Cat. Brit. B. 1836, 57 (same type).

CHAR.—Similar to *Fulix*, but the bill decidedly broader at the base than at any other part, gradually narrowing toward the end, which has

*Some recent authorities have, with apparently a not very particular regard for structural characters, used the generic term *Fuligula* for the entire group of lobed-billed river-ducks, or those which have usually been assigned to the genera *Fuligula*, *Fulix*, and *Aethya*. But *Anas rufina*, Pall., upon which the genus *Fuligula* of Stephens

a large and very broad nail; maxilla very much depressed terminally, its depth at the base of the nail being only about one-fourth that at the extreme base. Male with the head rufous, the pileum ornamented with a very full, soft tuft or bushy crest, occupying the whole top of the head.

FULIGULA RUFINA (Pall.) Stephens.

The Rufous-crested Duck.

Anas rufina, PALL. It. ii. App. 1773, 731, No. 28.—GMEL. S. N. i. 1788, 541.

Branta rufina, BOIE, Isis, 1822, 564.—GRAY, Cat. Brit. B. 1863, 198.

Fuligula rufina, STEPH. Gen. Zoöl. xii. 1824, 188.—DRESSER, B. Eur. pt. xxii. Oct. 1873.

Netta rufina, KAUP, Nat. Syst. 1829, 102.

Platypus rufinus, BREHM, Vög. Deutschl. 1831, 922.

Callichen rufinus, BREHM, t. c. 924.

Mergoides rufina, EYT. Raf. Brit. B. 1836, 57.

Aythya rufina, MACGILL. Man. Brit. B. 1846, 191.

Callichen ruficeps, BREHM, t. c. 922.

Callichen subrufinus, BREHM, t. c. 924.

Callichen micropus, BREHM, t. c. 925.

Callichen rufescens, BREHM, Vogelfang, 1855, 379.

Red-crested Pochard, SELBY, Brit. Orn. ii. 350.—DRESSER, l. c.

Red-crested Whistling Duck, YARRELL, Brit. B. ed. 2, iii. 327, fig.; ed. 3, iii. 329, fig.—GRAY, l. c.

HAB.—Southern and eastern Europe, northern Africa, and India; occasional in northern and central Europe, and casual in the British Islands; accidental in eastern U. S. (New York market, Boardman; spec. in U. S. Nat. Mus.).

Adult ♂ (57207, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Hungary, W. Schlüter).—Head and upper half of the neck delicate pinkish cinnamon, or vinaceous-rufous, the full, soft crest (occupying the entire pileum) paler and less reddish, the feathers light buff at tips; lower half of the neck (including a narrow stripe which extends up the nape to the occiput), jugulum, breast, abdomen, anal region, crissum, upper tail-coverts, and rump brownish black, deepest on the neck and jugulum, and with a decided dark-green gloss on the upper tail-coverts. Back and scapulars uniform light umber-drab or isabella-color; wing-coverts and tertials brownish gray; speculum white basally, changing gradually into pale grayish, then succeeded by a rather broad subterminal bar of dusky, the tip narrowly and abruptly white; four outer primaries with outer ends dusky; inner quills pale ashy, with broad dusky ends; tail dull dark grayish. A broad bar or transverse patch across anterior scapular region, anterior border of the wing, lining of the wing, axillars, and a very large patch

was based, is quite a different type from *Fulix* (formally restricted to *F. marila* and its allies by Professor Baird, in 1858) and *Ethya*, and should, in my opinion, be separated generically. The first use of the term *Branta* in a generic sense was by Scopoli in 1769 (for *Anser bernicla*, L., *A. moschata*, L., *A. torrita*, L., *A. albifrons*, L.—a very heterogeneous assemblage, which invalidates its subsequent employment unless restricted to one or another of the species named by Scopoli not already been supplied with a generic name, of which, however, there appears to be none not thus provided.

covering the flanks and posterior half of the sides, pure white. "Bill bright vermilion-red, the tip white; irides reddish brown; legs orange-red. Total length 21 inches." (DRESSER, B. Eur. pt. xxii.) Wing, 10.20; culmen, 2.00; tarsus, 1.50; middle toe, 2.25.

Adult ♀ (57209, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Hungary, W. Schlüter).—Crest much less developed than in the male, light hair-brown, this color descending to the level of the lower border of the eye, and posteriorly continuing in a narrow stripe down the nape; rest of the head and neck very pale ashy, as are also the lower parts in general; jugulum, sides, and flanks light raw-umber brown, the tips of the feathers lighter; anal region and crissum uniform light drab, the latter whitish terminally. Upper parts in general umber-drab (the wings being more brownish than in the ♂), darker on the rump; white patch at base of scapular region wholly obsolete, and white border to the wing indistinct; speculum pale ashy, becoming gradually dull white basally, and brownish dusky subterminally, and with a narrow white terminal margin as in the ♂. "Eyes hazel; beak blackish, with a pink tip, a portion of the lower mandible being yellowish pink; legs and feet pinkish, webs blackish." (DRESSER, l. c.) Wing, 9.90; culmen, 1.90; tarsus, 1.50; middle toe, 2.20.

Immature ♂ (61957, U. S. Nat. Mus.; vicinity of New York City, Feb., 1872, G. A. Boardman).—Similar in general appearance to the adult ♀, as described above, but crest much less developed (the tips of the feathers much worn) and decidedly more reddish in color; sides and under parts of head thickly interspersed with cinnamon-colored feathers (new moult); the jugulum, breast, and posterior under parts also mixed with black feathers, indicating the approaching adult livery; white patch at base of scapular region plainly indicated, and broad white border to anterior portion of the wing very distinct; speculum much as in the ♀, lacking the distinct subterminal dusky bar of the adult ♂. Wing, 9.80; culmen, 1.80; tarsus, 1.50; middle toe, 2.15.

Young in down (fide *Baldamus*, Cab. Journ. 1870, 280).—Differs from every other duck in this plumage that I know in having a double olive-gray stripe from the lores, dividing before the eye, and bordering the yellowish-gray eyebrow above and the cheeks and auriculars below; upper parts, crown from the base of the bill, nape, back, and wings dull olive-gray, excepting the spot on the shoulder, which, with the rest of the body, is pale yellowish gray; iris dark brown; bill reddish brown, with the nail white; feet ash-gray, with a greenish tinge, webs and toes narrowly edged with yellowish white." (DRESSER, l. c.)